

The following action is in response to the amendment received August 20, 2009.
Claims 13-33 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-33 are allowed. In accordance with MPEP § 608.01(n) IV, claims 13, 14, 17, 15, 18, 16, 19, 20, 26, 21, 27, 25, 33, 31, 22, 23, 29, 24, 30, 28 and 32 will be renumbered for printing as claims 1-21, respectively.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not anticipate or render obvious a method of determining coupling torque in a friction coupling with an electro-mechanical actuator, as defined in claim 13, for the reasons set forth by applicants on pages 7 and 8 of the "Remarks" filed with the communication of August 20, 2009. Similarly, the art of record does not anticipate or render obvious the assembly, as defined in claims 19 and 22, for the reasons set forth on pages 9-13 of the "Remarks" filed with the communication of August 20, 2009.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Oath/Declaration

The objection to the oath or declaration set forth in the previous Office action is withdrawn for the reason set forth by applicants on page 6 of the "Remarks" filed with the communication of August 20, 2009.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments with respect to the rejections of claims 13-33 are persuasive. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) set forth in the previous Office action are withdrawn.

As noted above, the objection to the oath or declaration is withdrawn, since the Office previously determined that the international application meets the requirements of 35 USC 371. Attention is directed to the claim for priority in the oath or declaration. Priority is apparently claimed under 35 USC 119 (a)-(d) or (f), or 365(a) or 365(b). Presumably, 35 USC 365(a) or (b) apply here. Note that 35 USC 365(a) and (b) are subject to the conditions and requirements of 35 USC 119(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney H. Bonck whose telephone number is (571) 272-7089. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David D. Le can be reached on (571) 272-7092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Rodney H. Bonck/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3655

rhb
October 29, 2009